

Message Text

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S/ S - MR. MILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

S E C R E T STATE 061701

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: BAN ON LUXURY IMPORTS

FOR WEDEMAN

1. OLMSTED DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF BAN ON LUXURY GOODS EXTENSIVELY WITH WOODLEY.

2. BOTH IMF AND WE HAVE DELICATE PROBLEM. WOODLEY AGREES THAT EVERS WENT TOO FAR. EVERS SENT WOODLEY IMPASSIONED MESSAGE ASKING WHETHER HE SHOULD QUIT CAMBODIA OVER ISSUE. WOODLEY SAID HIS REPLY WAS ALONG LINES EVERS SHOULD MAKE HIS POINT, BUT THIS WAS NOT THE ISSUE ON WHICH TO STAKE IMF PRESENCE.

3. HOWEVER WOODLEY DOES NOT FEEL FUND CAN RECOMMEND ANY OTHER COURSE OF ACTION TO GKR. PROBLEM FOR WOODLEY IS JAPANESE. GOJ TAKES POSITION LDCS SHOULD IN FACT HAVE QUANTITATIVE CONTROLS ON IMPORTS AND PARTICULARLY RESTRICTIONS OR PROHIBITIONS ON LUXURIES. IMF POSITION IS ADA-
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MANTLY AGAINST QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS. WOODLEY FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT A MILLIMETER IS A KILOMETER IN THIS CASE, AND THEREFORE THEIR ADVICE MUST CONTINUE TO BE AGAINST QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION, INCLUDING BAN ON LUXURIES.

4. WOODLEY SAID IMF WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT WITHDRAW IF GKR DID, HOWEVER, BAN LUXURY IMPORTS, AND THAT THEIR PROTEST WOULD BE PRO FORMA. HE SAID HE WOULD SEND MESSAGE TO EVERS FOR HIM NOT TO BE SO ADAMANT IN OBJECTING. PROBLEM IS WHETHER EVERS WILL DISPORT HIMSELF IN MORE RESTRAINED MANNER ON SUBJECT.

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5. SUGGEST YOU TALK TO EVERS, AND ADVISE HIM WE HAVE TALKED TO WOODLEY AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND IMF POSITION, BUT THAT IN WARTIME SITUATION GKR WOULD BE ACTING APPROPRIATELY TO BAN LUXURIES AS EXCEPTIONAL POLICY. REAFFIRM TO EVERS WE ARE AGAINST QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AS MUCH AS THEY, BUT WARTIME IS DIFFERENT. YOU MAY INTIMATE TO HIM, IF YOU THINK IT APPROPRIATE, THAT WE UNDERSTAND WOODLY WOULD NOT INTERPOSE TOO STRONG OBJECTION IF GKR WENT AHEAD.

6. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS, IF ANY, OF SUCH DISCUSSION. WE BELIEVE BAN ON LUXURIES, ESPECIALLY PASSENGER CARS, WOULD BE IN ORDER, BUT IT IS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT WE NEITHER PART COMPANY WITH IMF NOR GET AHEAD OF THEM.

7. IN ADDITION TO SUBJECT COVERED ABOVE, IMF HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR EVERS' SECURITY, AND PARTICULARLY THAT HE WOULD BE EVACUATED IF NECESSARY. ASSUME YOU HAVE INCLUDED HIM IN E AND E PLAN ON USUAL BASIS.

GDS RUSH

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